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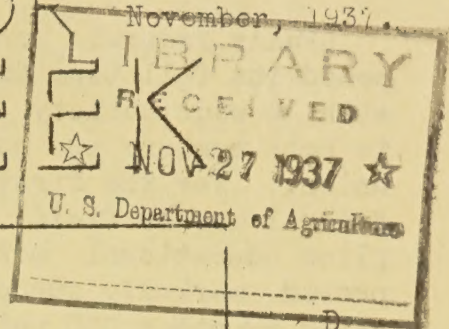
Vol. 2 No. 7.

THE ORGANIZER

UFWA PUSHES FOR

A 5-DAY WEEK

TEXT OF SECTION ONE
FIVE-DAY-WEEK BILL



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A Bill

Establishing a five-day workweek in the Federal service,
and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That five days shall constitute the workweek for all officers and employees of the Federal Government and the District of Columbia (including the officers and employees of every corporation created by authority of an Act of Congress which is controlled or owned by the United States Government, whether or not such officers and employees are paid from funds appropriated by the Congress, except the commissioned and enlisted personnel of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Coast and Geodetic Survey, and Public Health Service, when not engaged in departmental duty in the District of Columbia: Provided, That no officer or employee shall be deprived, by reason of the enactment of this Act, of any leave of absence or holiday with pay to which he may be entitled under existing law.

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A five-day-week bill for all government employees will be introduced early in the special session now deliberating.

The Civil Service Commission has reported to President Roosevelt how a five-day-week would affect Federal service.

The CIO convention strongly endorsed the 5-day-week.

The UFWA campaign for passage of the 5-day-week bill has already begun. Jacob Baker, President, has offered to make the research staff and their studies available for official inquiry.

Firing the opening volley in the drive for this measure, Pres. Baker and Vice-President Goldschmidt spoke over Radio Station WJSV Nov. 9, and other prominent speakers will follow.

The 5-day-week bill is in six sections:

General provisions of these are:

I. Provides 5-day-week for all Federal civilian employees and all military and naval departmental workers in Washington.

II. Requires that overtime be paid for at time and a half in money or leave.

III. Forbids loss of pay as result of 5-day-week.

IV. Forbids increases in hours of daily employment.

V. Repeals all conflicting laws.

VI. Makes act effective at beginning of the next fiscal year.

Mass meetings in support of this and other bills of interest to Federal workers are to be held from time to time.

FEDERAL WORKERS SCHOOL OPENS

UFWA's Federal Workers School opened its fall term November 15, 1937 with a wide variety of courses open to both members and nonmembers of the union. For the first time, in the federal worker field, are to be applied educational methods which have proved markedly successful when applied by other CIO unions.

Classes have been planned "so that out of them will arise a better understanding of the problems of labor". Class instructors are among the most competent in their fields.

A course in "The Economic Order" will be under the direction of Dr. Carolyn Ware, Associate Professor of Social Economy and Social History at American University. A symposium on "Contemporary Literature" is under the direction of Lewis Carliner, Editor, "The Federal Organizer". It will include such illustrious literary figures among its guest speakers as Floyd Dell, Henry Alsberg, Sterling Brown and Virgil Seddos.

A class in "The Modern Dance" will be conducted by Ruth Riley, formerly dance instructor at the University of West Virginia. Nicholas Ray, formerly of the staff of the Living Newspaper of the Federal Theatre Project has charge of the study of "Drama".

Registration for courses may be made in person or by phone at the School--UFWA National Headquarters, 532 17th St., N.W., District 3250. Courses are of 1 hour per week for a period of 10 weeks. Charge for union members is \$2 per course, for non-members \$2.50.

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Local #2 Adjustment Committee will meet regularly in Room 3630 at 4:30 PM each Monday. Employees with grievances may submit them at that time.

MARYLAND-DC INDUSTRIAL COUNCIL FORMED

At the first meeting of the Maryland State-District of Columbia Industrial Council, 215 delegates representing 98 locals of CIO affiliated unions voted last week endorsement of suffrage for residents of the District of Columbia, for independent political action by labor, for investigation by the LaFollette Committee of vigilante movements and for inclusion of agricultural workers in Social Security legislation.

Unions represented were the United Federal Workers of America, the National Maritime Union, the State, County and Municipal Workers, the United Mine Workers, United Textile Workers, and the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, among others.

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UFWA SURVEYS WORKING CONDITIONS

Agriculture Local #2 is cooperating with other lodges of the United Federal Workers of America in making a survey of government working conditions.

A questionnaire treats of conditions of sanitation, overtime, classification, efficiency ratings, promotions, discharge, adjustment of grievances and discrimination.

Answers are expected to show accurately, for the first time, the character and extent of employee grievances and to provide the basis for UFWA's adjustment activity.

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The next meeting of Local #2, UFWA will be held Wednesday, November 17, 8 o'clock, in Room #1, UFWA offices, 532 17th St., N. W. Interesting reports and discussions are scheduled.

Months ago, Local #2 negotiated a "promotions-from-within" procedure in the Department of Agriculture. The result--an announced policy of preference to department employees in the filling of vacancies and the posting of notices of them. All of this was embodied in Personnel Circular No.46.

But time has demonstrated that the present procedure is not entirely adequate. It does not really assure preferential treatment in promotions to the employees of the Department. In fact, there is nothing about the Department's statement of policy that does more than simply ask the administrative officials to grant preference to those already employed in Agriculture. They do not invariably do so.

For that reason--and many others--Local #2 has again begun activity in behalf of a better promotions procedure. Already, many other employee groups have pledged their cooperation in its advancement.

Newly drafted plans call for the following: that it be made mandatory that qualified employees closest to the vacancy be granted preferential treatment, and that each applicant be granted the right to appeal, should his application for a position within his Bureau be rejected.

The importance of these innovations cannot be overestimated. President Roosevelt recently asked all government agencies to save voluntarily 10% of their fiscal appropriations. In the Department of Agriculture it means that pay raises will not occur.

It is therefore made doubly necessary that an equitable system of reclassifications and promotions be adopted. The only way to overcome the effect of economy measures is to see to it that promotions are made properly and that the individual employee is compensated in commensuration with the work performed by him.

Local #2 is endeavoring to assure it.

Believing that labor can play a prominent part in promoting and maintaining peace, the Women's Trade Union League, the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Hotel & Restaurant Workers' Union and the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Typographical Union are sponsoring a Labor Peace Committee, open to all Washington unions, AF of L, CIO and independents.

On October 18, an organizational meeting was held. Plans were laid for popularizing a boycott against Japan. The Committee will shortly release a shopper's guide listing materials made in Japan and substitutes obtainable at Washington stores.

The Labor Peace Committee is also planning to hold meetings and forums on subjects related to peace. "Boycott Japanese Goods" buttons may be obtained from Ruth Yaffee, Rm. 4524.

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UFWA FIGHTS RISE IN FARES

Raise in street car fares last week met with a statement of the Civic Affairs Committee of United Federal Workers' District Organizing Committee which termed the raise "outrageous" and threatened action to force reduction of fares.

UFWA, in conjunction with citizens' associations, has already petitioned the Public Utilities Commission for a rehearing on the order permitting the rise.

Intensive study of the Civic Affairs Committee of Capital Transit Company capital investment and income and comparison with financial conditions of transit companies of other cities has indicated to the committee that the rise is unjustifiable.

Union leaders are particularly concerned because Transit Company operations already show a considerable profit and because the recently authorized rise falls most heavily on the lowest wage earning brackets in the community.

ON THE LABOR FRONT

CIO AND TEXTILES

About a year ago, the Committee for Industrial Organization organized its Textile Workers Organizing Committee, headed by Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Sydney Hillman, and 500 organizers were out to spread the message of unionism. In every phase of this chaotic and disorganized industry--in silk, woollens, cotton, carpets, rugs, rayons--CIO pushed its energetic drive.

What are the results? The TWOC has signed agreements with 526 companies in the textile industry, employing 265,000 workers. In 63 elections conducted by the National Labor Relations Board, from Vermont to Georgia and into the Middle West, the TWOC has won 56. Two hundred eighteen local unions have been established and in 14 leading textile-producing centers joint boards have been formed. Thirty-five locals have initiated broad educational programs and many more publish their own newspapers and bulletins, have got up reading rooms and libraries, conduct classes and lectures.

In rayon, signing of a contract with the Celanese Corporation of America brings to more than 75 percent the workers in the synthetic rayon-yarn industry covered by union agreement. Agreements provide for a union shop, 40-hour week, time and a half for overtime, paid vacations and adjustment of grievances by arbitration.

Only when no other recourse was open, did the union resort to the strike weapon, and then extensively only in silk, where complete shutdown of virtually the entire industry resulted in union victory.

CIO HELPS UNITE LABOR FORCES

The CIO is the greatest unifying force in American labor history. In the boot and shoe industry, when the CIO entered the picture this year, a half-dozen rival unions were wasting their strength. CIO's first efforts amalgamated existing unions, and out of the merger the United Shoe Workers of America was formed. Since then, a membership of 16,000 has risen to 52,000; 10,000 previously unorganized workers, attracted by the idea of a single powerful union, have joined the United Shoe Workers; contracts with 43 manufacturers have risen to 200; 20% wage increases have been obtained.

The principle of a single industrial union in each of the basic and mass production industries has proved to be the only foundation for a unified labor movement.

Come on Down---to the

Where Agr. Local #2, U.F.W.A., Invites You to

Sat., Dec. 11

9 PM until Blotto

For the Small Sum of

50¢

Free Beer

Entertainment

Please notify the financial secretary of change of address, or room number, either through your dues collector or by dropping a postcard to Mario Jona, 918 -- 18th St., N. W.
